

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Attorney General Mr. Dappula de Livera
Attorney General's Department
Hulftsdorp Street
Colombo 12, Sri Lanka

September 11th, 2019

Writer Released on Bail, Still at Risk of Jail

Dear Mr. de Livera,

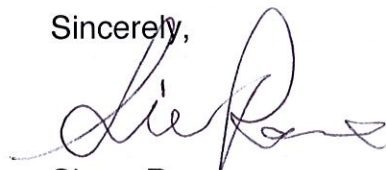
On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to immediately drop all charges against **Shakthika Sathkumara** and unconditionally release him from the constraints of his bail. **Sathkumara** was wrongfully arrested for writing and posting a short story on his social media profile. Following his wrongful arrest on April 1st, 2019 he was detained for several months. On **August 5th, 2019** Sathkumara was released on bail, though his charges are still pending.

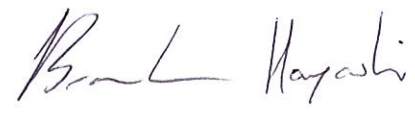
We are deeply concerned about reports from Amnesty International about the criminal charges against Sathkumara, **as this is a direct violation of his right to freedom of expression** which is guaranteed by the Constitution of Sri Lanka. Such rights are also protected under international documents such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

As Sathkumara is a prisoner of conscience, we insist that his charges be immediately dropped, in the interest of upholding his inalienable rights and freedoms. In addition to this, we call on the authorities of Sri Lanka to stop using the ICCPR Act to threaten, harass and prosecute writers and activists for peacefully expressing their opinions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Sierra Rae
President
TRU Students' Union


Brandon Hayashi
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc. His Excellency Madukande Asoka Kumara Giriagama, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka